

R 080603Z MAY 92
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG
AMEMBASSY KIEV
AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
AMEMBASSY RIGA
AMEMBASSY TALLINN
AMEMBASSY VILNIUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 146571

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [RS](#)
SUBJECT: RUSSIAN INTEREST IN COUNTER-TERRORISM
COOPERATION

11. CONFIDENTIAL -- ENTIRE TEXT.

12. SUMMARY: RUSSIAN EMBASSY COUNSELLOR EDWARD MALAYAN, ACCOMPANIED BY SECOND SECRETARY BUGAYEV, CALLED ON S/CT DIRECTOR FOR REGIONAL AFFAIRS JON GREENWALD MAY 6 TO PICK UP COPY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S JUST ISSUED REPORT "PATTERNS OF TERRORISM 1991." HE CONFIRMED RUSSIAN INTEREST IN RESUMING THE DIALOGUE ON COUNTER-TERRORISM COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. THAT HAD BEEN INTERRUPTED WITH THE DISSOLUTION OF THE SOVIET UNION. GREENWALD SAID THE U.S. WOULD WELCOME THIS AT A TIME WHEN THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT WAS READY TO PROCEED SINCE THERE WERE PRACTICAL ISSUES WHICH IT COULD BENEFIT BOTH SIDES TO DISCUSS. END SUMMARY.

13. GREENWALD SAID THAT THE NEW REPORT PRESENTED A MIXED PICTURE. THERE HAD BEEN POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE YEAR, INCLUDING THE EXCELLENT INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST IRAQI TERRORISM CAPABILITIES AT THE TIME OF THE GULF WAR AND THE BEGINNING OF THE UNITED NATIONS' EFFORT TO ACHIEVE JUSTICE IN THE PAN AM AND UTA BOMBINGS AND END LIBYAN SPONSORSHIP OF TERRORISM. IT WAS OBVIOUS FROM THE REPORT, HOWEVER, THAT TERRORISM REMAINED A SERIOUS CONCERN AND A HIGH USG PRIORITY.

14. MALAYAN ASKED ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR LIBYAN COMPLIANCE WITH THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS AND SAID THE DECISION TO REMOVE RUSSIAN MILITARY ADVISERS HAD BEEN PAINFUL FOR MOSCOW SINCE IT FORFEITED HARD CURRENCY. GREENWALD SAID SANCTIONS WERE GENERALLY BEING ADHERED TO VERY WELL, WITH SOME ROOM FOR QUESTION ON THE APPROPRIATE STANDARD FOR "SIGNIFICANT" REDUCTION OF LIBYAN DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE. THE UNSC WOULD REVIEW THE COMPLIANCE REPORTS TO BE SUBMITTED BY MEMBER STATES BY MAY 15. IT WAS TOO EARLY TO KNOW WHETHER THE SANCTIONS WOULD PRODUCE THE DESIRED EFFECT ON LIBYA, HE SAID, BUT THE TIGHTER THEIR APPLICATION, THE BETTER THE CHANCE. THE U.S. KNEW HOW DIFFICULT THE MILITARY ADVISER DECISION HAD BEEN, HE SAID, AND DEEPLY APPRECIATED THE RUSSIAN POSITION.

15. IN RESPONSE TO MALAYAN'S QUESTION, GREENWALD SAID THE RECENT TIME MAGAZINE COVER STORY QUESTIONING THE GOVERNMENT'S VERSION OF THE PAN AM BOMBING WAS BASED ON OLD REPORTS THAT HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY CHECKED OUT AT THE TIME AND WERE CONSIDERED GROUNDLESS. MALAYAN SAID "WE LOOKED INTO THEM AND REACHED THE SAME CONCLUSION."

16. THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT WAS STILL IN SOME FLUX WITH RESPECT TO RESPONSIBILITY FOR COUNTER-TERRORISM, MALAYAN SAID. HE EXPECTED THE LEGAL ADVISER TO RETAIN THE PRIMARY ROLE ON THE MFA SIDE. IAKOVLEV, WHO HAD CONDUCTED THE INITIAL BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS FOR THE SOVIET UNION WITH AMBASSADOR BUSBY IN 1990-1991, HOWEVER, HAD BEEN REMOVED IN DECEMBER. HIS "YOUNG" REPLACEMENT WAS ABOUT TO BE TRANSFERRED AS AMBASSADOR TO THE NETHERLANDS, AND IT WAS UNCLEAR WHO WOULD TAKE OVER. WE WOULD FIND, HE ADDED, THAT MOST OF THE KGB SPECIALISTS WITH WHOM WE HAD DEALT IN THOSE SESSIONS CONTINUED TO OCCUPY SIMILAR POSITIONS IN THE NEW RUSSIAN

INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

17. THE U.S. WAS INTERESTED IN TAKING UP THIS IMPORTANT DIALOGUE WHEN THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT WAS READY, GREENWALD SAID. A U.S. DELEGATION WAS IN MOSCOW THIS WEEK FOR THE EXPERT LEVEL TALKS CALLED FOR UNDER THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON AIRCRAFT HIJACKING PROCEDURES, BUT WE WISHED TO PURSUE ALSO THE BROADER THEMES THAT HAD BEGUN TO BE DISCUSSED PRODUCTIVELY WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

18. MALAYAN SAID THAT THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT AGREED IT WAS IMPORTANT TO RESUME THIS DIALOGUE. IN ADDITION TO ISSUES SUCH AS LIBYA, HE SAID, THE SITUATION IN PARTS OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION GAVE RISE TO TERRORISM CONCERNS. RUSSIA CONTINUED TO WORRY ABOUT NUCLEAR TERRORISM, WHICH HAD BEEN RAISED BY THE SOVIET DELEGATION IN EARLIER CONSULTATIONS AND HAD ACQUIRED MORE URGENCY WITH THE BREAKUP OF THE SOVIET UNION. THERE HAD EVEN BEEN SUCH A THREAT AT ONE POINT BY CHECHENS IN THEIR DISPUTE WITH MOSCOW, HE NOTED.

BAKER